and subtlety, observance and taste, peculiarly feminine. The fact of a middle-aged woman roving alone through the world at will, and everywhere meeting with little else than respect and kindness,—even robbers doing homage to her sex and giving instead of taking,—is one of a highly interesting and gratifying description, full of hope for human nature.

Mrs. Pfeiffer puts to shame more than one accredited traveller in the frequency and the graphic character of her remarks on everything in the shape of architectural curiosity or pretension met with in the course of her wanderings,—especially in India, China, Ceylon, &c. By the way, she incidentally corroborates the feasibility of a recent suggestion as to the want of windows in the Nineveh temple-palaces by reminding us that a want of windows is a peculiarity amongst the countless temples of the Hindoos. A remark of hers also on the extent of Delhi gives one a pretty shrewd idea of one at least of the real causes or reasons for the astounding extent of Nineveh.

"To the great imperial city of Delhi the eyes of all India—almost of all Asia—were once directed. It was, in its time, what Athens was to Greece, and Rome to Europe, and a similar fate has befallen it; for of all its greatness only the name is left. The present town is called New Delhi, although it is 200 years old, and is a continuation of the old towns, of which there have been seven; for, as often as the palaces, mosques, &c., became dilapidated they were left to fall to ruin, and new ones erected by the side of them; so that at last, ruins included, the town extended eighteen miles in length, and more than six in breadth: indeed, if many of them were not covered with a thin stratum of earth, it would appear the most extensive city in the world."

The author's account of one of the monuments of Delhi may be quoted, both as an example of her manner of describing such things, and of the style of the translation, which seems to do justice to the original.

"One of the most remarkable monuments I saw was what is called the Kotab-Minar, in which is the grand pillar, a polygon of twenty-seven hills, and five stories or galleries. The diameter at the base is 54 feet, its height 226: it is of red sandstone, and the upper part white marble; but it is chiefly admirable for the marvellously wrought sculptures and decorations which wind round it in broad stripes, and which are so delicately and exquisitely chiselled that they resemble the finest lace. Every description of the effect of the wonderful work must be far excelled by the reality, and fortunately the column is in as good preservation as if it had not been standing 100 years though it dates from the thirteenth century. The upper division leans a little forward, it is not known whether intentionally or otherwise; and it terminates in a flat terrace which does not seem to harmonise well with the rest of the structure. Possibly something may have formerly stood upon it, although this is not known. It was in its present state when Delhi was taken by the English. We ascended to the summit and obtained a magnificent prospect over the world of ruins, New Delhi, the Jumna, and the wide country round."

*Historical Calculations based upon past Events in the History of the World, &c.* Glasgow: R. Jackson. 1851.

We know not well what to say about this little pamphlet, although a great portion of it relates to the measurements of the temple given by Ezekiel. It is compiled from a work entitled "The Mystery of God Finished," and is designed to show "that the progressive developement of the principles of human action, and the leading events in the history of churches and nations, have been regulated by fixed laws, the future results of the calculations pointing definitely and distinctly to the time of 'restitution of all things,'"—which, the author seems to calculate, is to begin in our own beloved "isle of the sea," and the preparation for which extends more particularly "from the year 563, when Columba arrived first in Scotland, until the year 1863, when the divine national man shall appear." As to this "divine national man," we suspect that those who are preparing "a knife and fork" for him, and "a seat at table," and who hence seem to regard him as an individual merely, will find themselves immensely mistaken; but really, although we do admit that the true "Temple of the Lord," in which he *will* appear, is the human body, we are not versed in such "measurements of the Temple" as these, and therefore the less we say about them the better.

*The Hand-book of Architectural Ornament.* By W. Gibbs, Ornamental Engraver. London: Ackermann and Co. 1851.

Observing at the first glance several examples pilfered from our pages (where they appear exclusively), without the slightest acknowledgment, we are not disposed to look farther.

*The Royal Exhibition Companion; or, the Sights of London.* London: Clayton and Son, Strand. 1851.

This is a series of penny guides, and consists of twenty-five distinct hand-books to most of the sights in London, and within 25 miles of St. Paul's; each part containing thirty-two pages of letterpress. They are necessarily brief, but appear to be tolerably comprehensive and clear so far as they go.

## Miscellanea.

Drury-lane Theatre. — Jullien's Concerts.—Mr. Jullien has done much to popularise good music, and deserves the thanks of those who regard with interest the progress of the universal art. At this moment, when there is singularly little to be seen or heard in London, save the note of preparation, and with such attractions as he can offer, he may be sure of full houses every night of his brief season. The theatre stands greatly in need of thorough decoration, and will probably have it in time for the approaching opera season there. For the present occasion, Mr. Gye has shaken his wand, and, with the aid of white hangings to the boxes with swags of artificial flowers, scarlet and gold coverings to the pillars, the glittering crystal curtain, and a promenade adorned with his usual affluence of white calico, gold lace, roses, and good taste, has made it all that could be desired *pro tempore*, if it were not for the murky ceiling, difficult to hide, which suggests what the superficial prettiness covers.

The Gateshead Surveyorship.—Two candidates were nominated by the Gateshead Council for the office of town surveyor and inspector of nuisances—Mr. William Hall, C.E., of Bradford, Yorkshire, and Mr. Robert Coxon Young, of the Gateshead firm of R. and R. C. Young, builders. "It had pertinaciously been insinuated, beyond the Tyne," says the *Gateshead Observer*, "that while our corporate body were advertising for candidates, a majority of the members stood pledged to appoint a resident burgess. We declared our trust that the majority would be unswayed by local predilections—would vote for the candidate who came before them best recommended; and the result has justified our confidence and repelled the 'insult.' Mr. Young had many powerful recommendations in his favour—local friendship, an unsullied personal reputation, and, as an architect and builder, a standing second to none in Gateshead. But a majority of the members, however highly they respected their townsman, were of opinion that the public interests would best be consulted by the election of Mr. Hall, and gave their votes accordingly." Another local paper thinks that the borough has been "insulted" by a stranger having been deemed more eligible than a townsman to fill the office of town surveyor.

A Shake-up for Cabinet-Makers.—It is not probable that any one believes that a knowledge of all the timbers which grow on the surface of this beautiful earth is inherent in carpenters, cabinet-makers, or carvers; but should any one have the faintest notion of such a thing, he has only to go to the Great Exhibition and take even a casual view of the specimens of wood there displayed, and he will find amply sufficient to dispel the delusion under which he might have been labouring. If, after this, he expects that the workers in wood will be kept down to the routine use of our native oak, the hitherto almost universal mahogany, or rosewood, as the only materials for our furniture, he will be more short-sighted than we could well have supposed any man capable of visiting and examining the Exhibition could have been; and we are compelled to give him up in despair, and appeal to others of more susceptibility, asking them, if such a series, even as that now in the Crystal Palace, could be permanently secured together with such illustrations of the working capabilities of the various specimens as would show their economic value for carving and general cabinet-work, would it not be a boon of no small importance to manufacturers of furniture, and a great stimulant to the arts of design as applicable thereto? For it must ever be remembered that the character of a piece of carved wood depends largely upon the natural structure of the wood used in its construction; and in the more florid examples of wood-carving, a close grained and fine fibre is essential to the safety of the work; and thus in all judiciously executed examples, we shall find the character of the carving varies according to the peculiarities of the fibre of the wood, and it would have been the height of absurdity to have attempted to carve a work similar to the bedstead in the Austrian department in oak instead of zebra wood.—*Art Journal.*

Institution of Mechanical Engineers.—A general meeting of this institution was held at the Society's rooms, in Birmingham, on the 22nd ult. Mr. Archibald Slate, in the absence of Mr. J. E. M'Connell, was called to the chair; and the secretary read a paper by Mr. J. A. Skipton, of Manchester, "On the Direct Conversion of Rectilinear into Circular motion in the Steam-engine." Mr. Marshall next read a paper by Mr. Clift, of Birmingham, "On the Preservation of Timber by Creosote." The author expressed his conviction that the mode of saturating wood with creosote, patented by Mr. Bethel, was the best yet proposed. The material used consisted of bituminous oils combined with a portion of creosote, the latter substance being acknowledged to possess the most powerful antiseptic properties. The timber, when subjected to this process, would be proof against the ravages of the destructive worms which generally destroy timber, and wood so impregnated would be most suitable for railway-sleepers, mining-work, docks, &c. Mr. Archibald Slate then placed before the meeting a paper "On a New Equilibrium Canal Lift for transferring Boats without loss of Water or of Power." An improved safety lamp, the invention of Mr. C. Elvin, of Belgium, was presented by Mr. S. H. Blackwell, of Dudley.

Ecclesiastical Residences.—One of the longest Acts passed in the late Session of Parliament relates to ecclesiastical residences in Ireland. The object of the Act (14 & 15 Vict. c. 73) is to consolidate and amend the laws on the building, maintaining, and exchange of ecclesiastical residences, and to apportion more justly and equally the expenditure in respect of such residences, and render the liability of ecclesiastical persons in respect of dilapidations less burdensome. There are several clauses on the subject of building and improving ecclesiastical residences by way of memorial, certificate, and charge; others as to persons who are to be deemed successors to such residences. Some of the provisions have reference to the compulsory building of glebe houses; to the building and improving of ecclesiastical residences by means of money raised on mortgage; as to the way of endowment of glebe lands and houses by well-disposed persons desirous to promote the residence of a minister to officiate in any church, parochial chapelry, or perpetual curacy. Many of the clauses in this Act relate to dilapidations, and as to the purchase and sale of residences, and as to the recovery of rents upon reserved glebe lands, &c. There are 57 long provisions in the Act.

Cleopatra's Needle. — Letters from Alexandria say that a government engineer from Malta "is exhuming the prostrate column known as Cleopatra's Needle."

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